

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Ganesan et al. :
Rule 53(b) Continuation of : NEW APPLICATION
Serial No: 09/749,596, filed :
December 28, 2000 :
Filed: Concurrently Herewith :
For: TECHNIQUE FOR ELECTRONIC FUNDS ESCROW

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a continuation of the above referenced application. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read " Electronic Greeting Card With Gift Payment ".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add the following claims 53-75:

--53. A method for making a monetary gift, comprising:

receiving, via a network, a request to make a monetary gift in an amount on behalf of a donor, to a recipient, and an input associated with an electronic greeting card;

processing the request and the input to generate the electronic greeting card including a notification of the monetary gift;

transmitting, via the network, the electronic greeting card to the recipient; and

crediting funds equal to the monetary gift amount to a deposit account associated with the recipient.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the electronic greeting card is transmitted to the recipient at one of 1) a time subsequent to the crediting of the funds to the deposit account associated with the recipient, and 2) a time concurrent with the crediting of the funds to the deposit account associated with the recipient.

55. The method of claim 53, wherein:

the notification includes a hyper-link; and

the funds are credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient subsequent to an activation of the hyper-link.

56. The method of claim 55, further comprising:

activating the hyper-link; and

receiving, via the activated hyper-link, information identifying the recipient;

wherein the funds are credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient subsequent to receipt of the

information identifying the recipient.

57. The method of claim 56, further comprising:

processing the received information identifying the recipient to determine if the recipient is a member of an enclosed community prior to the crediting of the funds to the deposit account associated with the recipient; and

if it is determined that the recipient is not a member of the enclosed community, transmitting a notice, via the network, to the recipient, that the recipient must become a member of the enclosed community before the funds will be credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient.

58. The method of claim 53, wherein the recipient is a first recipient and the notification includes a hyper-link, further comprising:

further transmitting, via the network, the transmitted electronic greeting card to a second recipient;

activating the hyper-link in the further transmitted electronic greeting card;

receiving, via the activated hyper-link, information identifying a second recipient;

processing the information identifying the second recipient to determine if the second recipient is a member of an enclosed community;

if it is determined that the second recipient is not a member of the enclosed community, transmitting a notice, via the network, to the second recipient, that the second recipient must become a member of the enclosed community before funds are to be credited to a deposit account associated with the second recipient; and

if it is determined that the second recipient is a member of the enclosed community, crediting funds equal to the monetary gift amount to a deposit account associated with the second recipient.

59.The method of claim 53, further comprising:

debiting an account associated with the donor;

wherein the account associated with the donor is debited at one of (1) a time prior to transmitting the electronic greeting card to the recipient, and (2) a time subsequent to an activation of a hyper-link included in the transmitted electronic greeting card.

60.The method of claim 53, further comprising:

processing the request to determine if the recipient is a member of an enclosed community prior to processing the request and the input to generate the electronic greeting card including a notification of the monetary gift;

wherein, if it is determined that the recipient is not a member of the enclosed community, the notification includes a notification that the recipient must become a member of the enclosed community before funds will be credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient.

61. The method of claim 53, wherein both the request and the input are received from one of 1) the donor, and 2) an electronic greeting card service.

62. The method of claim 53, wherein the request is received from the donor and the input is received from an electronic greeting card service.

63. The method of claim 53, further comprising:

transmitting, via the network, the electronic greeting card to an electronic greeting card service prior to transmitting the electronic greeting card to the recipient.

64.A system for making a monetary gift, comprising:

a communications port configured to transmit and receive information via a network;

a memory configured to store information associated with monetary gifts; and

a processor in communication with the communications port and the memory and configured to (1) receive, from the communications port, a request to make a monetary gift in an amount on behalf of a donor, to a recipient, and an input associated with an electronic greeting card, (2) cause the memory to store the request, (3) process the request and the input to generate the electronic greeting card including a notification of the monetary gift, (4) cause the electronic greeting card to be transmitted to the recipient, and (5) cause funds equal to the monetary gift amount to be credited to a deposit account associated with the recipient.

65. The system of claim 64, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the electronic greeting card to be transmitted to the recipient at one of 1) a time subsequent to the crediting of the funds to the deposit account associated with the recipient, and 2) a time concurrent with the crediting of the funds to the deposit account associated with the recipient.

66. The system of claim 64, wherein:

the notification includes a hyper-link; and

the processor is further configured to (1) receive, from the communications port, information indicating an activation of the hyper-link, and (2) cause the funds to be credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient subsequent to receipt of the information indicating an activation of the hyper-link.

67. The system of claim 66, wherein:

the processor is further configured to (1) receive, via the activated hyper-link, information identifying the recipient, and (2) cause the funds to be credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient subsequent to receipt of the information identifying the recipient.

68. The system of claim 67, wherein:

the processor is further configured to (1) process the received information identifying the recipient to determine if the recipient is a member of an enclosed community prior to the crediting of the funds to the deposit account associated with the recipient, and (2) if it is determined that the recipient is not a member of the enclosed community, cause the communications port to transmit a notice to the recipient that the recipient must become a member of the enclosed community before the funds will be credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient.

69. The system of claim 64, wherein:

the recipient is a first recipient;

the notification includes a hyper-link; and

the processor is further configured to (1) receive, from the communications port via the hyper-link, information identifying a second recipient subsequent to a transmission of the electronic greeting card from the first recipient to the second recipient, and (2) process the information identifying the second recipient to determine if the second recipient is a member of an enclosed community;

if it is determined that the second recipient is not a member of the enclosed community, the processor is further configured to cause a notice to be transmitted to the second recipient, via the network, that the second recipient must become a member of the enclosed community before funds will be credited to a deposit account associated with the second recipient; and

if it is determined that the second recipient is a member of the enclosed community, the processor is further configured to cause funds equal to the monetary gift amount to be credited to a deposit account associated with the second recipient.

70. The system of claim 64, wherein:

the processor is further configured to cause funds to be debited from an account associated with the donor; and

the account associated with the donor is caused to be debited at one of (1) a time prior to the processor causing the electronic greeting card to be transmitted to the recipient, and (2) a time subsequent to an activation of a hyper-link included in the transmitted electronic greeting card.

71. The system of claim 64, wherein:

the processor is further configured to process the request to determine if the recipient is a member of an enclosed community prior to processing the request and the input to generate the electronic greeting card including a notification of the monetary gift; and

if it is determined that the recipient is not a member of the enclosed community, the notification includes a notification that the recipient must become a member of the enclosed community before funds will be credited to the deposit account associated with the recipient.

72. The system of claim 64, wherein both the request and the input are received from one of 1) the donor, and 2) an electronic greeting card service.

73. The system of claim 64, wherein the request is received from the donor and the input is received from an electronic greeting card service.

74. The system of claim 64, wherein the processor is further configured to transmit, via the network and through the communications port, the electronic greeting card to an electronic greeting card service prior to causing the electronic greeting card to be transmitted to the recipient.

75. An article of manufacture for making a monetary gift, comprising:

a computer readable medium; and
computer programming stored on the medium;

wherein the stored computer programming is configured to be readable from the computer readable medium by a computer to thereby cause the computer to operate so as to:

receive, via a network, a request to make a monetary gift in an amount on behalf of a donor, to a recipient, and an input associated with an electronic greeting card;

process the request and the input to generate the electronic greeting card including a notification of the monetary gift;

cause the electronic greeting card to be transmitted, via the network, to the recipient; and

cause funds equal to the monetary gift amount to be credited to a deposit account associated with the recipient.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the abstract in its entirety and substitute therefor the abstract attached hereto on a separate sheet.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted simultaneous with the filing of a 37 CFR 1.53(b) continuation application on pending Application Serial No. 09/749,596, filed December 28, 2000.

The title and abstract have been amended to better reflect the invention to which the present application is directed.

As originally filed, the parent '596 application included claims 1-52. Claims 2-52 have been canceled in the filing request for the present continuation application. Claim 1 is canceled and new claims 53-75 are added by this preliminary amendment.

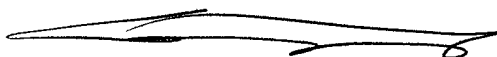
The new claims are directed to the delivery of electronic greeting cards with funds attached. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 12-0429 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A method, system and article of manufacture for making a monetary gift. The system includes a communications port, a memory, and a processor. The processor functions to perform the method of the present invention. A request to make a monetary gift to a recipient on behalf of a donor is received. An input associated with an electronic greeting card is also received. The request and the input are processed to generate the electronic greeting card with a notification of the gift. The electronic greeting card is transmitted to the recipient, and the gift is credited to the recipient's bank account.